

STATE-WIDE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN ON THE RESTORATION OF WOLVERINES TO COLORADO

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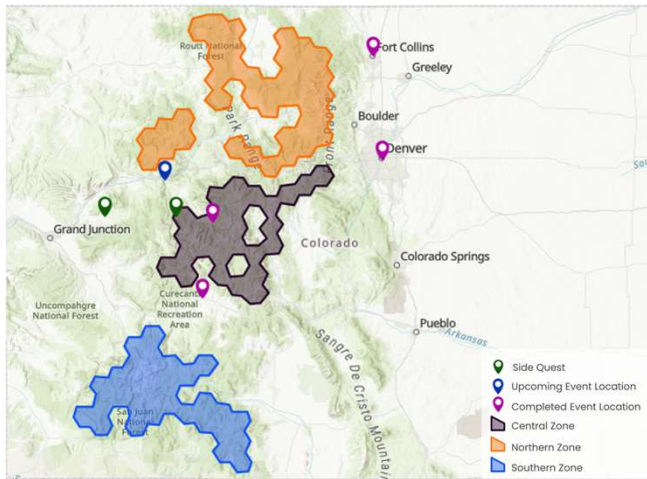
PROJECT INTRODUCTION

In 2024, the Colorado Legislature passed the Restoration of Wolverines Act, authorizing the reintroduction of wolverines to Colorado. While reintroduction won't begin until late 2027 at the earliest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife plans to release its Restoration and Management Plan by the end of 2025. To support efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of this upcoming reintroduction, the Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence, Defenders of Wildlife, and CSU Extension partnered to deliver an education campaign across Colorado this summer.

TOPICS EVENTS DISCUSSED:

- Wolverine biology and ecology
- Why wolverines are a threatened species
- Why wolverines are being reintroduced to Colorado
- How wolverines will be reintroduced

Map 1. Wolverine Reintroduction Zones & Event Locations



INTERNSHIP GOALS:

- Engage with communities in Colorado
- Improve extemporaneous public speaking skills
- Learn how to run education events for research

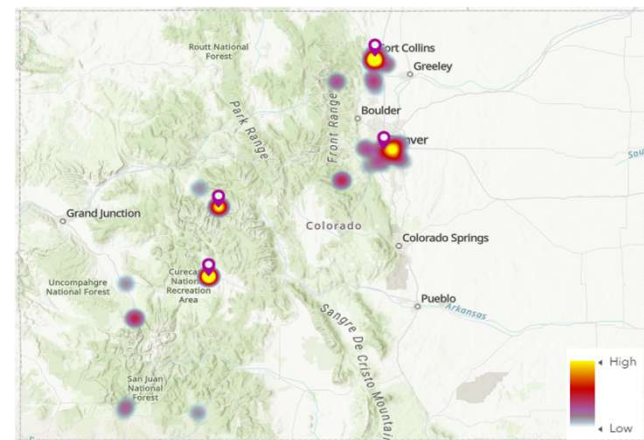
MY CONTRIBUTIONS

I collaborated with my mentors and community partners to develop our educational materials and organize our educational events. We reached over 100 Coloradans across 15 total education events, including 9 in-person events in Gunnison, Glenwood Springs, Aspen, Denver, and Fort Collins, and 6 virtual events. The virtual option enabled us to reach a broader range of Coloradans. Additionally, we developed a pre- and post-survey to measure the effectiveness of our education efforts.

Figure 1-4. Presentation Slide Examples. *Designed by Kaitie Schneider*

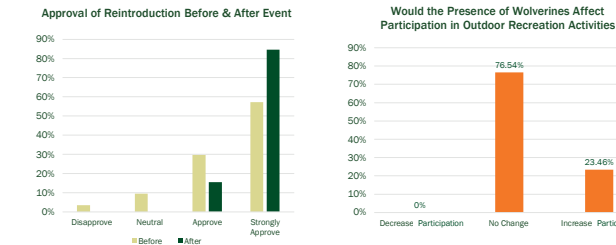
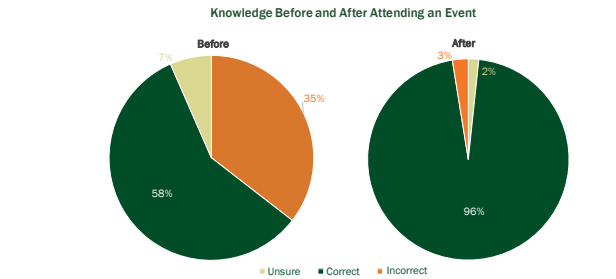
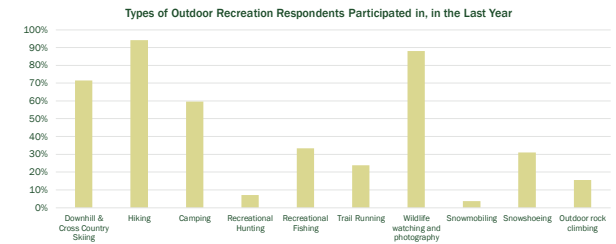
IMPACT

Map 2. Heat Map of People Reached by Zip Code



RESULTS

Charts 1-4. Survey Response Results



KEY FINDINGS

- Knowledge increased by 38% after attendance.
- Overall support increased by 14% with a 28% increase in the "Strongly Approve" response option.
- The presence of wolverines will not decrease participation in outdoor recreation activity. 0% of respondents reported they would decrease their participation in outdoor recreation activities.